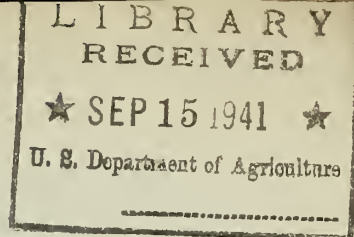


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AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

WHY 1942 GOALS FOR AGRICULTURE? WHY THE "ALL-OUT" DRIVE TO ATTAIN these goals? WHY USDA State & County Defense Boards? WHY? WHY? WHY? Many a why will be put to USDA employees in the weeks ahead. Because the program behind the whys is MOST IMPORTANT, MOST CRITICAL yet undertaken by the Department, superlative effort is a "must."

ANNOUNCEMENT OF 1942 GOALS WERE MADE BY SECRETARY WICKARD last Monday from San Francisco. In brief, all-out production has been asked for hogs, evaporated milk, dried skim milk, cheese, eggs, and chickens -- "Food For Freedom." These items are backed up by 85 percent of parity price guarantee until Dec. 31, 1942. Other items may be added to list as needed. For the first time, goals have been set on all major farm crops. Regional meetings will be held at Salt Lake City, Chicago, New York City, and Memphis during next two weeks to work out details of campaign. Complete sets of goals will be released after regional meetings. Ask for a copy.

THIS IS A CONTINUANCE OF DEPARTMENTAL POLICY. Our National Farm Program is one of adjustment. Restrictions will be maintained on cotton, wheat, and tobacco where surpluses are still greater than needed stockpiles even in this national emergency. Adjustment UPWARD (adjustment works both ways) is for food crops for which sharply increased domestic demand coupled with needs of countries fighting Nazi-ism brings immediate need for increased production.

GOALS PROBABLY WOULD BE ATTAINED EASILY IN NORMAL TIMES. But the year ahead WON'T BE NORMAL. SHORTAGES - actual shortages of materials going into farm equipment and machinery repairs are past the talk stage. Critical shortages are popping up here and there and it is only a matter of a few weeks until the pinch will be general, tightening down rapidly. Will come as a shock to many because they have been able to go down to the hardware store and buy most anything they wanted - wire, fertilizer, tractors, combines, zinc, galvanized buckets, etc. Manufacturers' inventories are going. The last stock is or soon will be on the shelf. Many small manufacturers actually going out of business until they can be switched over to defense production.

METAL SHORTAGES ARE CRITICAL. Aluminum production has more than doubled, but still is short of actual defense needs. Manganese, zinc, nickel, can't be used for civilian needs without taking out of actual defense production. There isn't enough copper and steel to supply defense and normal requirements. Consequently, less essential civilian requirements in for drastic cuts.

NOT ENOUGH CHEMICALS. There is a shortage of chlorine for all purposes including bleaching paper, refrigerants, etc.; all possible sulphuric acid going to new explosives plants, chemical nitrogen tight but probably adequate, other chemicals tight, getting tighter, slowing production in some essential lines.

TRANSPORTATION - ESPECIALLY WATER TRANSPORT - inadequacies pinching off such essentials as burlap "gunny" sacks already scarce, may get better.

FARM LABOR SITUATION WITH ONLY A FEW "BAD SPOTS" in '41 expected get worse next year, especially where migratory labor is needed to harvest perishable crops. Semi-technical workers, such as farm hands who can operate tractors and milking machines, hard to get now. Harder to get next year.

FARMERS WILL BE CALLED ON TO SHARE the hardships of the shifting economy. SACRIFICE AND SWEAT ONLY WILL GET THE JOB DONE.

FARMERS NOT ONLY GROUP CALLED ON FOR SACRIFICES. SMALL BUSINESS taking it on the chin harder than any other group right now. Big Business, especially durable goods manufacturers of non-defense items - refrigerators, automobiles, washing machines, etc., - face cuts of 50 percent and more in production. Items manufactured won't be fancy (all trim will disappear from autos, refrigerators probably will differ only in size, no deluxe models) and substitutes for critical metals will come into use.

WITH THE GENERAL TIGHTENING DOWN ON ITEMS FARMERS NEED together with jobs that farmers must do describe situation, State and County Defense Boards, whose membership is composed of Department bureau and agency field personnel, have a tough task ahead. These DB's will follow through on the "Food For Freedom" campaign right down to a farm to farm canvass. They already have completed farm machinery surveys and made estimates of farm machinery needs for another year. In the East Central and Southern States, Defense Boards have worked out plans to make the widest possible use of available winter legume seed to conserve nitrogen. They are suggesting the use of non-leguminous winter cover crops where there is an insufficient quantity of legumes.

OPM IS WORRIED ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF SCRAP IRON moving to steel mills. (One-third of all ingot steel is made from scrap, rest from new ore.) They have asked Department to sponsor a drive for farm scrap. Department has agreed. Another Defense Board job in less than month. OPM has been carrying out successful scrap drive with auto junk yards. (There is a price ceiling on scrap. Won't be much of a profit motive for farmers. Campaign will stress patriotic duty in returning scrap so that it can be made into guns, tanks, and ships.)

JOB JUST BEGINNING FOR DEFENSE BOARDS. Should demand for items like trucks, tractors, combines, etc., exceed supply it may be duty of DB's to say where such equipment will go to make its greatest contribution to production for defense.

IF MILITARY EXPERTS WRITING IN PERIODICALS ARE CORRECT IN SAYING THAT WAR PROBABLY WILL BE A LONG ONE, then the longer fighting lasts the more production counts. The United States is past the crossroads. They are throwing their efforts into production to defeat Nazi-ism. "Food For Freedom" plays an important role in this scheme of production. Secretary Wickard has often repeated in public statements that "FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR AND WRITE THE PEACE."

